

Participatory Action Research in support of research integrity: engaging the parties concerned

A different way to support scientific integrity



PhD students,
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1- How to overcome some limitations to conventional training?

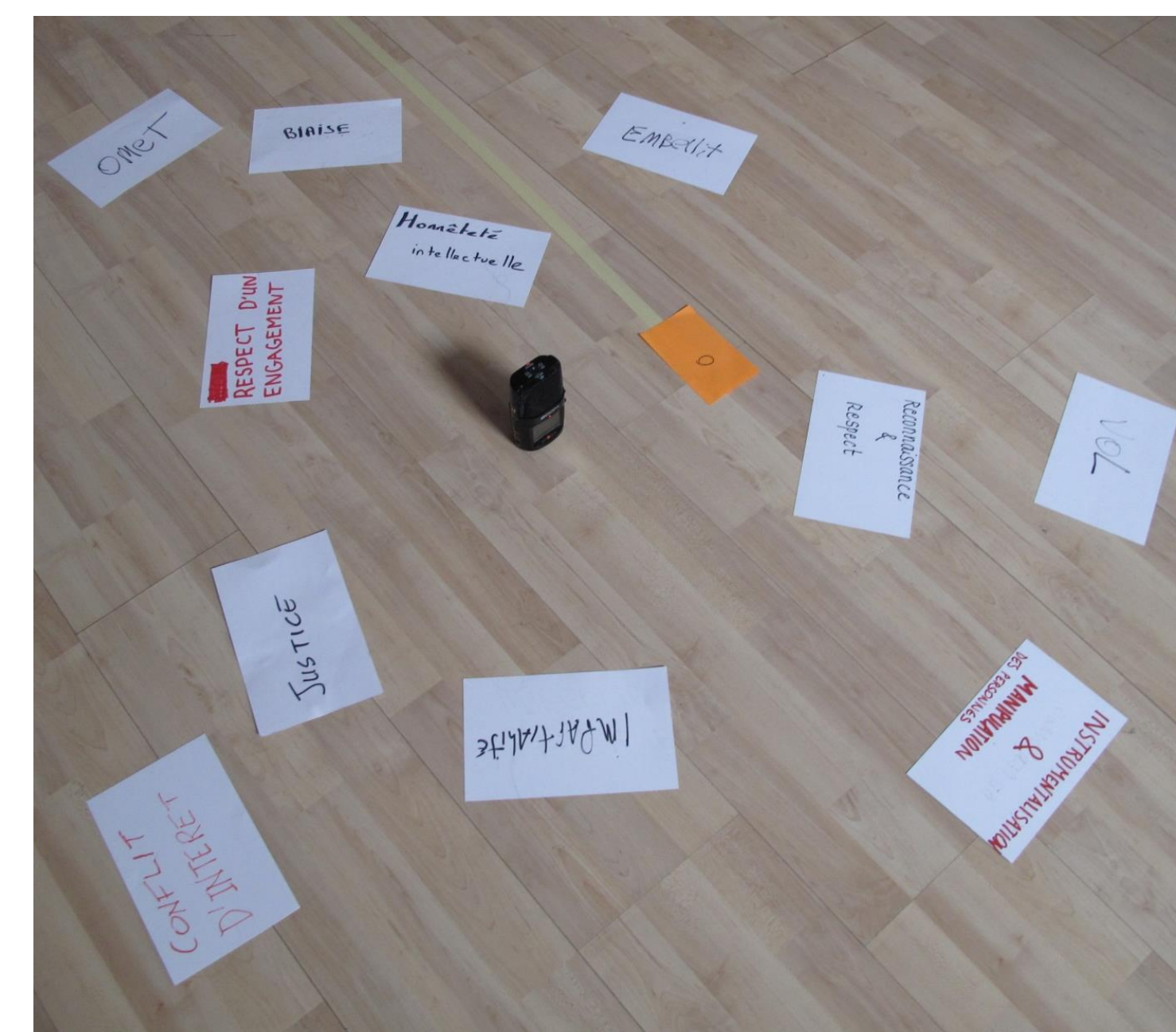
- **Current mixed results:** conventional training and educational strategies do not fully address issues of research integrity
- **Our belief:** achieving greater rigor and effectiveness by requiring the authentic engagement of all parties concerned
- **Our approach:** testing Participatory Action Research to support collaborative thinking and action in the field of research integrity

2- Participatory Action Research (PAR): to support collaborative thinking and action

- **Developed:** in partnership between GDR PARCS and SAS² Dialogue
- **First experiment:** with 50 PhD students in the course of Agreenium's International School (2015, Nancy; 2016, Montpellier)
- **Design: 4 participatory steps**
 - ➔ Identifying key moral principles
 - ➔ Identifying actual misconducts
 - ➔ Developing recommendations
 - ➔ Implementing key actions

3- Promising results

- **Key moral principles** addressing research integrity issues generated in less than 2 hours
 - ➔ Including honesty, neutrality, transparency, courtesy and fairness, responsibility, accountability...
- **Misconducts identified**
 - ➔ Fabrication, Falsification, Plagiarism (FFP)
 - ➔ Questionable Research Practices (QRP), poor methodology
 - ➔ Conflict of interests and pressure (with funders)
 - ➔ Elitism
- **One major concern linked with data management**
 - ➔ Poor quality: data falsification or fabrication
 - ➔ Difficulty or lack of access
 - ➔ "Stolen" data
- **Some request**
 - ➔ Involving senior researchers to further explore issues of research integrity in their own work



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Conclusions: Further testing and improvement

- ➔ **First experiment:** Authentic engagement achieved through PAR shows promising results in the identification of actual issues of research integrity.
- ➔ **Next step:** the full methodology, under development, allows participants to identify the main drivers of research integrity and to develop recommendations suited to the context.
- ➔ **Safe space approach:** allows to create safe space for all those involved in group-based ethical discussions.

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